

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated July 18, 2008, which was made final, subsequent to the filing of a Notice of Appeal, and prior to the submission of an Appeal Brief, claims 4-9 have been canceled. Claims 1-3 remain in the application. Entry of these amendments, and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

With regard to the canceled claims, Applicant is not conceding that the subject matter encompassed by claims 4-9 is not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner. Claims 4-9 were canceled in this Amendment solely to facilitate expeditious prosecution of claims 1-3. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue claims, including the subject matter encompassed by claims 4-9, as well as additional claims, in one or more continuing applications.

Respectfully submitted,

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